



## The Struggle Against Selfishness Exodus 2:11-15

James 3:16

“For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.”

Exodus 2:11-15 (NIV)

One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. Glancing this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, "Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?" The man said, "Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and thought, "What I did must have become known." When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian.

How to Guard against selfish decisions:

I. Seek God's Perspective ahead of your own.

Exodus 2:11

“He went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people.”

Exodus 2:23-25; 3:7,8

The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them.

The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey —

II. Avoid the temptation to rationalize wrong choices.

Exodus 3:12

“...Glancing this way and that and seeing no one....”

III. Learn to wait for God to do things His way.

Psalms 37:7,9 (NASB)

“Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who carries out wicked schemes. For evildoers will be cut off, but those who wait for the LORD, they will inherit the land.”

IV. Never act against God’s clear will.

James 1:13-14 (NIV)

When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.

V. Resist the urge to hide the evidence.

Proverbs 28:13 (NIV)

“He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.”

VI. Stop thinking that the sins of others are worse than your own.

Exodus 2:13

The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, "Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?"

Some Simple Keys to Subduing Selfishness:

- Daily Surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ!
- Understand that Pride is the ROOT of all my selfish choices.
- Look for opportunities to “deny self.”

Romans 8:13 (NIV)

For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live

- Find creative ways to “put others first.”

Philippians 2:3-4 (NASB)

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not [merely] look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.